

Dear All

I have been particularly poor at keeping in touch this year, but I'm not going to beat myself up about it (as we would say Down Under), since we all have such busy lives– annoyingly eroded by useless paperwork and increasingly e-paperwork. Today I spent three hours trying to convince the UK Government Tax online service that I was well aware that “Australi” was not a valid UK postcode, but could I submit my tax return anyway?

A brief rundown of 2009:

- Mum and Dad came to visit us in Sydney last Christmas and NYE.
- We continued to enjoy surfing – a lot! Both of us can now catch and ride unbroken waves
- I started to really enjoy teaching at Cranbrook – looking after the Firsts and Seconds Tennis teams, launching a SCUBA diving club and teaching some high-brow maths again for the first time in ages. I went on two Outward Bound trips into the Australian bush for 10 days and did my first night dive in Sydney.
- We dived with some awesome sharks in Fiji and got up close and personal with some monster bull sharks (50 to 60 in a dive). See my photos below:



- I carried on enjoying underwater photography and it paid for our Fiji Trip – see my photos on the site: <http://fijisharkdive.com/index.php/gallery/picture-gallery.html> under Robin Nagy.
- We had rainbow lorikeets and cockatoos visiting our terrace for regular free handouts:



- Richard started teaching Law at the University of New South Wales, as well as doing a teaching qualification part time.
- A Red dust storm visited Sydney in August (this was the view from our bedroom balcony):



- I completed the 'City to Surf' 14km run (68 mins) and the Sydney half-marathon (1 hr 44 mins)



- We visited the UK for the first time in two years in September/ October and saw many of you!
- I had a knee (arthroscopy) operation (following on from the road running!) – and am virtually back to normal now, but not running again yet!
- Richard’s parents visited us in Sydney for Christmas and NYE.
- I lost a total of over 10kgs in the 7 years since 2003 when we left the UK (see before and after photo below):



Before (2003) After (2010)

(More expensive undies too!)

For us, 2010 will bring:

- Australian Citizenship (hopefully) – see this video clip for why we would want this:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bl-YI44XYjI>



- A temporary promotion at work for me to “Head of House”
- the fact that we no longer live in a postcode which corresponds to the date
- the fact that we won’t be saying “two thousand and ...” for much longer, but rather “Twenty ...” (is 2010 “two thousand and ten” or “twenty twelve”?).

We wish you all a g’day and lots of love from Sydney!

Robin and Richard XXX